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THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

MISSIONS

Rev. Charles S. Macfarland's Visit to Europe

Rev. Charles S. Macfarland, general secretary of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, has recently returned from Europe, where he visited representative Christian leaders at The Hague, Berlin, Berne, Paris, and London. This visit followed as a result of correspondence with representatives of Christian churches throughout the entire period of the war, and was made in the hope of acquiring information and preserving relationships such as will be helpful when the time of reconciliation and reconstruction comes. Mr. Macfarland's distinctly spiritual mission met with a measure of response such as could not possibly have been accorded if there had been any other motive. Many of the religious leaders of Europe appear to feel that the churches have not risen sufficiently above the turmoil to render effectively their mission to the people, but apparently there is a growing consciousness that we might now look forward to the task of spiritual reconstruction. Mr. Macfarland considers that the reception which was given him was characterized by sincerity and good feeling, while at the same time the various representatives earnestly maintained the justice of their respective causes. He found, however, that a good deal of misinformation and misunderstanding plays a part in the estrangement of our Christian brethren in Europe. The most emphatic of the recommendations which he gives to us is that we should multiply many times our relief work, because it is our strongest asset of moral

influence in Europe, and because it is our Christian duty.

Armenian Relief

The American Committee for Armenian and Syrian relief has published some authentic information in regard to the disposition of Armenians who have escaped the Turkish massacres and survived the deportation. The deportation is said to be unprecedented in the world's history in its thoroughness and magnitude. But it is gratifying to know that the first reports of the disaster were exaggerated. In January, 1915, there were from 1,600,000 to 2,000,000 Armenians in Turkey. Since then the horrors that we all know about have taken place, and of the survivors about 300,000 are refugees in the Russian Caucasus; 50,000 are in Persia, and 800,000 are in Turkey, concentrated about the Aleppo district. Among the people of all these groups the greatest need for the necessities of life exists, and the American Committee is doing its utmost to respond to the tremendous demands that are made upon it. Dr. Samuel G. Wilson, who was for many years treasurer of the Presbyterian Board in Persia, is the head of the American Commission operating from the Russian Caucasus. In addition to supplying the immediate needs of the refugees, this committee is seeking to re-establish the Armenians who fled to the Caucasus from the Von region, for the Russian advance has afforded these refugees an opportunity to return to their homes. The Commission in Persia is likewise working to re-establish permanently those who have been deprived of their homes.